



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
Western District of Texas

JOHNNY SUTTON
United States Attorney

601 NW Loop 410 STE 600
San Antonio, Texas 78216

(210)384-7400
FAX: (210)384-7474

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 10, 2003

On the Web at: WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/TXW/INDEX.HTML

Contact: Brent Gray, DOJ Civil Rights Division

(877) 678-2201

Daryl Fields

(210) 384-7440

FORMER BORDER PATROL AGENT SENTENCED FOR CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATION

(DEL RIO, TEXAS) U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that former U.S. Border Patrol agent **GARY MARK BRUGMAN** was sentenced to 27 months in federal prison for violating the rights of a Mexican citizen while acting as a peace officer. In addition to the prison term, U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice also ordered that Brugman be placed under supervised release for a period of two years after completing his prison term.

On October 31, 2002, a federal jury in Del Rio convicted the 36-year-old Eagle Pass, Texas, resident on one count of deprivation of civil rights under color of law. The jury found that on January 14, 2001, a group of ten Mexican Nationals illegally crossed the Rio Grande river onto Rosetta Farms, a pecan orchard just outside Eagle Pass. U.S. Border Patrol agents were dispatched to the area to investigate ground sensor activity. When they arrived at the location, the agents discovered the aliens and a foot chase ensued. The aliens ultimately gave up and sat down on the ground. Brugman caught up with the group of aliens and in front of two other Border Patrolmen, began kicking and punching one of the captured aliens.

"Law enforcement officers are entrusted to uphold the law, not break it," stated U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton. "Mr. Brugman's actions were inexcusable."

Mr. Sutton commended the investigative cooperation received by Jorge Espejel, the Consul of Mexico in Eagle Pass, Texas, for locating the victim in Mexico and making him available to U.S. authorities.

This case was investigated by Special Agent Gary Moore with the Office of Inspector General and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Baumann and Department of Justice Civil Rights trial attorney Brent Gray.

#####